

III. REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request the entry of the foregoing amendment to the specification of the above-identified application, which sets forth a correction to the benefit claim to an earlier-filed application.

The facts that precipitate and support the requested correction are as follows:

1. At the time the above-identified application was filed, the application number assigned to the earlier-filed application had not been received by Applicants.

2. At the time the above-identified application was filed, Applicants believed that the filing date that would be assigned to the earlier-filed application was July 17, 2003. Applicants' belief was based on the fact that the transmittal papers of the earlier-filed application were dated July 17, 2003.

3. In contrast to the date on the transmittal papers of the earlier-filed application, the date on the mailing receipts of the earlier-filed application was July 18, 2003.

4. Subsequent to the filing of the above-identified application, Applicants received the Official Filing Receipt of the earlier-filed application. The filing date of the earlier-filed application, as reported on the Official Filing Receipt, is July 18, 2003.

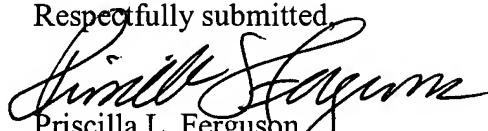
5. The present paper is timely filed pursuant to 37 CFR §1.78, as it is filed during the pendency of the above-identified application, and within the later of four months from the filing date of the above-identified application (namely, October 15, 2003) or sixteen months from the filing date of the earlier-filed application (namely, July 18, 2003).

In view of the foregoing, consideration and entry of the foregoing amendment is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,


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